

The Valiant



Football League Division Four
PORT VALE v WIGAN ATHLETIC
SATURDAY, 14th FEBRUARY, 1981
Kick-off 3.00 p.m.
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The Managers' Message

Welcome once again to Vale Park for this afternoon's game with Wigan Athletic. Greetings to Ian McNeil and his Wigan side. I took it is fair to say that in the short period that Wigan have been in the league, our fixtures with them have always provided their fair share of entertainment. Let's hope that the trend continues today.

This column gives me my first opportunity to welcome two of our new signings to Vale Park, these being Andy Higgins, who has joined us from Chatterfield and Tony Armstrong, whose last club was Huddersfield Town. Both are enthusiastic young players with a competitive edge to their game. I know that these are the kind of players that you like to see and I am sure that you will give them both a warm welcome this afternoon. I am afraid that our injury list has stuck again, Mark Hamman will be out of action for approximately a month and although at the date of going to press for this article, I have not secured the services of another goalkeeper, I am hopeful that by the time you read this, we will have a new face between the goalposts.

Thanks as always for your support, which is greatly appreciated.
Enjoy the game.

John McGrath

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WIGAN F.C.



We welcome to Vale Park this afternoon our visitors Wigan Athletic.

Nicknamed 'The Latics' they were formed in 1932. Prior to joining the Football League Wigan played in the Northern Premier League. While competing in that League, in ten seasons, they only twice failed to finish in the top three. They were Champions in 1970/71.

Springfield Park is the home of Wigan Athletic. Its ground capacity is 30,000. Their record attendance is 27,500 for the game against Hereford United in 1953.

Former well known Managers of Wigan include Ted Goodier, Allan Brown and Gordon Milne.

Our previous meeting this season at Springfield Park resulted in Wigan winning 1-0. Our record prior to this is shown below.

League									
Season	Division	Home			Away				
1978/79	4	2-1			3-5				
1979/80	4	1-1			1-3				
Summary	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts		
Home	2	1	1	0	3	2	3		
Away	2	0	0	2	4	8	0		
Total	4	1	1	2	7	10	3		

F.A.Cup

Home: 1969/70 1st Round Replay 2-2.

Away: 1969/70 1st Round 1-1

1969/70 1st Round 2nd Replay 1-0 (at Old Trafford)

BOB WARD (Goalkeeper) Ht: 6'1". Wt: 12st. As a boy, Bob supported his local side West Bromwich Albion, and he has had the double experience of playing at "The Hawthorns" both for and against Albion! After leaving school, he played as an amateur for West Brom., eventually turning professional at 18 and making 15 first-team appearances. He later joined Blackpool for a £20,000 fee and made his debut for the Seaside in an F.A. Cup tie at West Bromwich. He made 41 League appearances for Blackpool before joining Wigan last summer.

DAVE FRETWELL (Defender) Ht: 5'9". Wt: 10st 12lbs. Played as a schoolboy for Yorkshire and England at under-18 level, before studying industrial management at Bradford University. He has been a most reliable and consistent performer.

GEORGE URQUHART (Midfield). Ht: 5'11". Wt: 12st. Joined his former boss Ian McNeill from Ross County for a nominal fee last year.

JEFF WRIGHT (Midfield). Ht: 5'11". Wt: 11st 10lbs. Born in Alston in Cumbria, Jeff worked at the local foundry after leaving grammar school. Played for both Tow Law in the Northern League and Netherfield in the Northern Premier League before joining Wigan in 1974. He has shared in many of Wigan's F.A. Cup triumphs at non-league and Football League levels.

COLIN METHVEN (Defender). Ht: 6'1". Wt: 12st 4lbs. Manager Ian McNeill's deep knowledge of Scottish football enabled him to search out this strong and positive player who became Wigan's record signing at a fee of £30,000 from East Fife in October, 1979.

PETER HOUGHTON (Forward). Ht: 5'11". Wt: 12st 7lbs. Another member of Wigan's Merseyside contingent, Peter was in Liverpool Schools' team which won the English Schools' Trophy. He joined the Ford Motor Company as a Maintenance Fitter and stayed with them until becoming a full-time professional in July, 1978.

TONY QUINN (Forward). Ht: 5'10". Wt: 11st. With Everton as a junior for three seasons before joining Formby, young Tony moved "across the park" to Liverpool and played in their "A" team which won the Lancashire League and also helped the Liverpool County F.A. to win the English F.A. County Youth Cup. From Liverpool, he joined Wigan.

MIKE QUINN (Forward). Ht: 5'10". Wt: 12st 3lbs. This Liverpool-born player, no relative of Tony, enjoyed a "Roy of the Rovers" rise to fame last season in the Wigan colours. Having seen service with Tranmere Rovers and Derby County in his post-school years.

DAVID McMULLAN (Midfield). Ht: 5'5". Wt: 10st 3lbs. Signed last year from Cumbernauld United, a Scottish junior club, young David was restricted to several substitute appearances in the closing games.

BOBBY HUTCHINSON (Forward). Ht: 5'9". Wt: 11st 4lbs. Glasgow born, Bobby, a quick moving striker, is expected to give the Wigan Athletic side added skill and experience up front. Formerly a player with Dundee and Hibernian.





Left to Right: Back Row — Tony Quinn, Mike Quinn, George McAlister, Lawrence Tierney, Jeff Wright, Paul Hendry, David Tait. Middle Row — Ian Gilchrist (coach), George Goughart, Jim Oliver, Neil Davis, John Brown, Bob Ward, Colin Mathew, Peter Houghton, Frank Coman, Ken Banks (Trainer/Coach). Front Row — Maurice Whittle, Mark Wignall, John Curtis, Tommy Gore (now Barry F.C.), Ian McNeil (Manager), Dave McHulan, Bob Hutchinson, David Glenn and Dave Fotherell.

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Valiant Profile



LEE HARWOOD

Lee was born in Perivale, Middlesex. From an early age it was always his ambition to become a footballer. Shortly after leaving school, where he represented Hampshire Schoolboys, he signed apprentice forms with Southampton. Lee progressed at Southampton and two years later signed professional forms.

Shortly afterwards though, he left Southampton and joined Wimbledon. Because of injury Lee only made one appearance for them. After regaining fitness Lee joined Leatherhead on loan and shortly afterwards he joined Port Vale.

Sadly though Lee has had injury problems this season and has only had four first team outings. However, Lee is now almost back to full fitness and hopes to be in action shortly.

Most of Lee's spare time has been spent getting fit. However, he does enjoy going to the pictures and his favourite food is a banana sandwich.

His favourite player is Kevin Keegan — he admires very much his dedication to the game.

Finally Lee's advice to youngsters is never give up and work hard on your bad points to improve your game.

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Reserve Facts & Figures

With the recent improvement in weather, both the reserve and youth team have been able to complete a full programme of fixtures in our last few weeks.

Lancashire League v CHESTER, Saturday, 24th January, 1981. Result: Lost 1-2.

Team: Griffiths N., Austin, Heath, Morgan, Stanyer, Griffiths N., Civil, Griffiths A., Allen, Jenkins, Loughran. Sub: Mallabum, not used.

Vale went into a 1-0 lead when Andy Morgan snapped up a half chance inside the penalty box. Unfortunately, a young and enthusiastic Chester team proved too much as the game went on and they established their superiority by scoring 2 goals.

Lancashire League v MANCHESTER UNITED, Saturday, 31st January, 1981. Result: 1-1.

Team: Griffiths, Elsbey, Griffiths N., Griffiths A., Sherratt, Heath, Woolfall, Hammond, Allen, Shankland, Jenkins. Sub: Loughran and Mallabum not used.

The Vale team contained two trialists, those being Sherratt and Hammond. Hammond had an outstanding game, in fact the whole of the Vale side performed creditably in what is traditionally a tough fixture for any Lancashire League team. Vale's scorer was Anthony Griffiths and on the balance it would be fair to say that Vale were unlucky not to win this game.

S.O.T. Youth League v PARKWAY, Saturday, 31st January, 1981. Result: 3-3.

Team: Lewis, Finch, Mountford, Baker, Saunders, Askey, Parton, France, Harvey, Fenton, Brookfield. Subs: Lunt and Fox — not used.

Once again, Parkway proved to be a bogey side to the Vale's youth team. Having already beaten the Vale lads, Parkway took a point off them in a three all draw. Vale's goals were scored by Andy Harvey 2, and Carl France 1. Parkway's point means that they can catch Vale in the league table as they have games in hand.

Sentinel Shield v LEEK TOWN, Tuesday, 3rd February, 1981. Result won 3-0.

Team: Lewis, Finch, Mountford, France, Saunders, Baker, Lawton, Shaw, Harvey, Fenton, Askey. Sub: Parton for Saunders in 46th minute.

Umbro Floodlit League Cup v SHREWSBURY TOWN, Wednesday, 4th February, 1981. Result won 1-0.

Team: K. Austin, Bennett, Griffiths N., Griffiths A., Sherratt, Elsbey, Woolfall, Hammond, Allen, Jenkins, Shankland. Sub: Loughran not used.

An experienced Shrewsbury side kept the Vale's defence under constant pressure. Karl Austin celebrated his return to competitive football for Vale with a sound performance. Despite soaking up considerable pressure, Vale were quick on the counter-attack and scored their goal just before half-time. Alan Woolfall scored when he ran on to a through ball and dribbled round the goalkeeper. This was an encouraging performance by the Vale reserve side.



Alan Woolfall — scored 25 goals in 24 reserve team games this season.

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Personality Profile

by Derek Henderson

New Horizons for Reeves

Kevin Reeves and John Bond have had such a parallel player-manager relationship that one wonders: who follows who?

Now that the pair are at Maine Road, this is the third time that they have worked together at different clubs and it promises to be the most fruitful co-operation to date.

When Bond was in charge of Bournemouth, Reeves joined the Dean Court club on schoolboy forms and that was the start of it all.

When Reeves was 19 and Bond had moved on to Norwich, the player saw no obstacles when the manager asked him to join the Canaries.

Reeves had made 60 appearances for the south coast club and averaged a goal in every three games, so Bond could see the potential.

At Norwich, he chalked up 118 League games and got on the mark 36 times before Manchester City stepped in with an offer the player couldn't refuse.

But Reeves, on the threshold of an England career as a striker, soon found that £1 million price tag was something of a millstone around his neck. Added to that, things were not going well for Malcolm Allison as he desperately sought to find stability and consistency as a result of his big spending.

So as you can imagine, once Bond's move to take over at Maine Road was set up, Reeves' delight could scarcely be disguised.

He has a high respect for the coaching and tactical ability of the man who is a product of the thinking West Ham school of football which has produced such notables as Allison himself, Noel Cantwell, Phil Woosnam, Frank O'Reilly and Ken Brown.

Reeves is strong and brave, two of the qualities strikers need to be successful. And since Bond's arrival in Manchester, there has been a significant improvement in Reeves' impact on the side.

He found the Norwich way of playing — moving the ball swiftly from defence into attack — was soon implanted at Maine Road. That was what he was used to at Carrow Road, and indeed he reacted to it so well at that time that Allison saw no reason not to spend big money to lure him away from East Anglia.

With Reeves' surging confidence now being reflected again in his play, the England boss will increasingly be looking in the direction of this player when he is fashioning his attack.

Reeves may not be everyone's idea of an England international, but if he is able to produce the goods — and there are signs that he can — he is certainly worth persevering with at national level as we try to find our feet there as well.

Soccer Spotlight

by Derek Henderson

IPSWICH ARE AN EXAMPLE TO ALL THE UNFASHIONABLES

Continued from last issue.

The joy was short-lived, however. The following season they finished 17th, and 12 months later they were back again in Division II. It took four years for them to climb back again — and they have remained ever since.

For three or four years, they found their feet. But their record since then has been a model of consistency. Just consider it: 1973, 4; 1974, 4; 1975, 3; 1976, 6; 1977, 3; 1978, 18; 1979, 6; 1980, 3.

That 18th place sticks out like a sore thumb, but otherwise Town have been up there with the best — and this season, they threaten to take the prize again after a gap of almost 20 years.

Robson really has performed wonders, not only buying and selling shrewdly while the club have erected a magnificent main stand, but resisting the temptation to seek his future in Spain.

The former West Bromwich and Fulham wing-half, himself a stylish performer, has exerted an attacking influence on to his own team which is now probably the most entertaining side in the land.

Under the captaincy of the admirably consistent Mick Mills — already the holder of the club record for number of appearances, pushing on now towards the 600 mark — Town took the F.A. Cup in 1978 with a victory over Arsenal at Wembley giving them their first success in the competition.

Robson's buying included the bold and yet wise step of going to Plymouth for the talented Paul Mariner who has developed into England's first-choice centre-forward.

In addition, his swoop into Holland for Frans Thijssen and Arnold Muhren was another piece of bargain-buying, for the influence of the two foreigners, allied to the scoring surge of John Wark and the developing skills of Eric Gates and Alan Brazil, means an exciting eighties for Town's rural followers.

Town's line-up is impressive these days, and not only because goalkeeper Paul Cooper of the full-strength side is a non-international. Russell Osman and Terry Butcher are still a comparative youngster and all in all, there is a solid basis for honours to come Town's way in the next two or three seasons.

Yet, almost unbelievably, in 1937 Ipswich weren't even in the Football League, having only just turned professional. A fairy story came true, indeed.....



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STATESIDE

with JOHN KING

Over the past few years, with appropriate flag waving and ballyhoo, we have been assailed with news of the booming success of soccer in the USA. First Pele arrived, to be followed by Beckenbauer and Cruyff, and a host of less salubrious international players from all over the globe, and soccer was on its way...or so it seemed. But with the 1990 season (the 14th since the NASL began) now history it is perhaps time to ask a few more questions.

For example, has soccer really arrived in the States? Despite the flag waving and ballyhoo, and on the evidence of the 1990 season, the answer would appear to be a resounding no! For a start attendances were down almost everywhere, and alarmingly down at most places, with even the all-conquering Cosmos failing to pack them in as they were a couple of seasons ago.

That being the case the USA is no different to anywhere else, low gates mean financially struggling clubs, especially when you're paying the sort of salaries that most American clubs seem compelled to pay. Consequently it is no great surprise to hear that an alarming number of American clubs face an uncertain future.

Philadelphia Fury have already gone, with the franchise moving to Montreal despite the money poured in by a consortium of pop stars led by Peter Frampton. Other clubs rumoured to be in serious trouble are Rochester Lancers, who have long been the bad joke of the league; Dallas Tornadoes, whose millionaire owner Lamar Hunt is said to be fast running out of patience; the Boston based New England Tea Men, currently owned by Lipton's Tea; and the Anaheim based California Surf, whose stadium stands a corner kick away from Walt Disney's rather more successful Disneyland.

Even the Minnesota Kicks, long regarded as one of the League's

most solid franchises, have been the subject of one or two frightening rumours.

Neither are falling gates the only problem. For any sport that seriously wants to take root in America the support of the major television companies is absolutely essential, and it begins to look as if that support is virtually non-existent when it comes to soccer. The ABC Network held the television franchise for the 1990 season for which they paid the comparatively paltry sum of £250,000. Compare that with the £300,000,000 paid for a four year franchise to the National Football League for America's grid-iron game and you begin to see how highly the T.V. companies rate soccer.

Grid-iron teams are guaranteed £3 million each from their deal with the T.V. companies, baseball teams £1 million each from theirs, and basketball teams £400,000 each from theirs. Soccer teams, on the other hand, have just £250,000 to divide between 24 of them, and it doesn't take a mathematical genius to conclude that the clubs aren't exactly going to get fat on that sort of figure. It's a staggering fact that the £250,000 paid for two years television rights would buy you just six minutes advertising time during an American football game.

At the end of the day it's all down to viewing figures, and with the sort of ratings that soccer has been getting it would be no great surprise if ABC decided to cut their losses and leave well alone, as their rivals NBC and CBS have already apparently decided. If that happens, and with gates already plummeting, what happens to the great soccer boom?



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William Henry Walker, son of old Wolverhampton Wanderers player George Walker.

It seemed a natural progression for young Billy to look to his future in soccer, as a part-time player, first with Kingshill of Darlaston and later for Hednesford.

His big break came in Season 1915-16 when he joined Aston Villa, first as an amateur and three years later as a full time professional. Billy played in the 1920 Cup Final for the victorious Villa side and also in the losing side in 1924.

International honours followed and he gained eighteen caps for the full England side, filling the positions of centre forward and inside left, having tremendous success as a goalscorer.

Following his retirement Billy's great aptitude was football management, firstly with Sheffield Wednesday in 1933, and four years later moving on to Chelmsford City. Billy was soon to move on to Nottingham Forest where he served as manager from 1939 until 1960.

He then joined the club committee until he died in 1964.



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THERE'S ONLY

by DEREK H

You wouldn't have a difficult case arguing that Manchester United are the world's most famous soccer club. Wherever the game is played on a global basis, the name of the club means something — it is immediately identifiable, and that fact in itself is staggering.

Yet, strangely enough the club's reputation has been largely forged on post-war deeds rather than on those overall since they were elected to the League in 1893.

Indeed, much of the thirties saw United in the Second Division and only in the post-war era did the club blossom into one of the most-feared yet, most-admired of all time.

Part of this endearment has been earned by one man — Sir Matt Busby whose career as a player, manager and administrator is second to none, and who is as much an integral part of Old Trafford as the famed Stretford End itself.

United have had only four managers since the war — and two of those, Will McGuinness and Frank O'Farrell — had short reigns. The others were Busby, and Tommy Docherty.

But it is with the name of Busby that United has for so long been synonymous and when they became the first English club to land the European Cup in 1968 it was the fulfilment of the Scot's dream.

For up until that point, the European accolade was the only one at club level — save the world championship — that had eluded United. Every other major prize in a glittering space of over 20 post war years had been collected, the boardroom trophy cupboards suitably filled.

On that May night at Wembley in 1968 United faced Benfica, the pride of Portugal — and the undoubtedly great Eusebio who two years previously had wowed English crowds with his



Welsh international Mickey Thomas.

performances for his country in the World Cup.

This was a night, however, when English (and Scots and Irish) pride ran high, and so did the skills. The game went into extra time but then the overpowering talents of George Best and Bobby Charlton, aided and abetted by a United team in which young Brian Kidd reached great heights, saw them through to a 4-1 success.

United's — and Busby's cup — was filled to overflowing.

In the sixties, when they also took the F.A. Cup in 1963 and the League championship twice in 1964-65 and 1966-67, United probably had the best team in the club's long history. Or did they?

In front of Alex Stepney in goal were Irish full-backs Dunne and Cantwell, the half-back line of Crerand, Foulkes and Setters, and forwards of the calibre of Charlton, Law, Best Kidd, Herd and also Giles and Quixall.

Yet older fans may argue that the United team of the late forties was equally adept. I saw both and I wouldn't like to put much between them, save to remark that good as the earlier team's attackers were, they did not quite match players of the consummate skills of Charlton and Best.

I was in my late teens when I took my Wembley seat for the Final against Blackpool in 1948 — a truly memorable match.

Goalkeeper Crompton had two of the great full-backs of the day in front of him — Carey and Aston. The halves of

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YOUNG UNITED

HENDERSON



Anderson, Chilton and Cockburn fed a forward line which read Delaney, Morris, Rowley, Pearson, Mitten. Breathtaking balance in that line, and United won the day 4-2 to spoil the first of Stanley Matthews' three attempts to land a Cup winners medal.

In the fifties and sixties United were always our best bet, as Europe developed its three major club competitions. They were semi-finalists four times in the European Cup in addition to their success in 1968, and were also semi-finalists in the Fairs Cup in 1964-65.

Down the years many of the legendary figures have worn the famous red shirt.

Billy Meredith, the toothpicking-chewing Welsh international winger, and defender Charlie Roberts were two of the best-known old-timers.

Bobby Charlton, however, was the most renowned of them all, and that even includes the exceptional Best. Charlton earned 106 England caps in a glittering career at international level between 1958 and 1970, and played a hero's part in England's World Cup success in 1966.

His most memorable goal in this respect was the brilliant effort which killed off Portugal in the semi-final and set up our final success against West Germany.

Best, discovered in Belfast, turned out to be the soccer



Full back Arthur Albiston.

genius of this or any other age. He achieved pop-star-style acclaim which later turned sour on him, but the memory of his exceptional talents will remain for a very long time.

The mortal blow United suffered in the February of 1963 is part of the game's more sombre history. Returning from a European Cup tie in Belgrade, United's plane crashed on take-off at Munich and the flower of the club's players were cut down at a stroke.

Roger Byrne, Eddie Colman, David Pegg, Geoff Bent, Tommy Taylor, Mark Jones, Bill Whelan and Duncan Edwards all died, together with former Manchester City and England goalkeeper Frank Swift, then a journalist, and other officials, writers and crew.

Busby, Charlton, Foulkes and a few others survived to rebuild the team again from the ashes of one of the game's great disasters.

Like all clubs, United found the perpetual strain of keeping a place in the First Division too much for them and they fell into the Second Division in 1974. But Docherty steered them back at the first attempt.

They won the F.A. Cup for the fourth time in 1977 under his control, and then he left under a cloud to be replaced by the present manager Dave Sexton.

Sexton, one of soccer's quiet men but a great coach, has steadily rebuilt United's potential again, always allowing the team — like Busby before him — free expression on the field of play.

United may not be great at this time. But the greatness lies in the club, if not the current team, and many honours are certain to come the way of the Old Trafford club before we enter the twenty-first century.

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MEMORABLE MATCHES

Brazil v Sweden, 1958

by Derek Henderson

It was the day when the old world had to bow to the new — when Brazil, after years of unsuccessful attempts, at last broke through to win the World Cup for the first time and herald a new era in excitement for South American soccer.

It was also a time when we in England did not really take the emerging threat of the Brazilians nearly as seriously as we should have done, and our 0-0 draw with them in this competition did little to remove that erroneous impression.

But as the finals wore on day by day, so the power and flair of the Brazilians began to emerge so that by the time the great day arrived, when the host nation found themselves in the final after a fine run under Englishman George Raynor's guidance, the stage was set for the transformation.

Raynor himself prophesied that if Sweden scored first, the brittle Brazilians would crumble. Well, a watching soccer world held its breath as the Swedes DID score first through Liedholm.

But Brazil seemed to take it in their stride. By half time the signs were clear as Vava scored twice to put the South Americans firmly in front.

It was a match which was significant for more than Brazil's emergence. It was our first real sight of a young man called Pele who was destined to go on and become arguably the world's greatest player.

It was young Pele who next got on the score-sheet and with Zagallo made it 4-2, with Simonsson pulling one back for the host nation.

The rest was exhibition stuff with a breathtaking header from Pele making it 5-2 almost on the final whistle.

Sweden were a good side and deserved their place in the final. But Brazil achieved greatness that day and gave us a foretaste of some of the wonderful football they were to offer in the next two decades and stamp themselves truly as undoubted world champions.

Brazil welcomed home their new heroes in style. The president instructed Air Force fighters to fly the last 100 miles alongside the incoming plane carrying the victorious team into Rio.

They were the first nation to win the World Cup outside their own hemisphere....



The Kentucky Fried Chicken On the Ball Competition

ON THE BALL No. 21

Every answer has five letters and the first one fits into the top line, but you have to decide where the rest must go.

Get the ball away
Oldham (twice) Ireland star
1978 World Cup ball
Touchline regions



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Tuck into Kentucky Fried Chicken

EX-LEAGUE DATA

A statistical round-up of the 23 former Football League clubs, some playing in local and regional leagues others defunct...as spotlighted by Terry Vickers.

Durham City

Complete League Record

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
206	76	54	137	394	529	244

Founded in 1920 and within twelve months became original members of the League Division Three (North).

League football for the North-Easterns was always a struggle and during their seven years history eleventh position was the highest they achieved; this burst in their first season which also coincided with the Hoolley Park clubs best scoring season when 68 goals were recorded.

One name which was associated with the gold and blue stripes of Durham during the early twenties was George Carnall who later played for Middlesbrough and England. Carnall of course was the second division goalkeeper who held the record of 50 league goals only for Willie 'Duke' Dean to record a record 60 goals the following season for Everton in 1927-28.

At the end of the 27-28 season Durham City finished in 21st place and lost their league status to Carlisle United — Nelson were bottom but remained members for a further twelve years.

City's highest score was recorded at home on February 17th when Lincoln City lost 7-1.

Durham's seasonal record as league members was as follows:

Season	Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos.
1921-22	3 North	38	17	3	18	68	67	37	17th
1922-23	3 North	38	9	10	19	43	89	29	20th
1923-24	3 North	42	15	3	24	69	60	39	15th
1924-25	3 North	42	13	13	16	50	68	39	22nd
1925-26	3 North	42	18	6	18	63	70	42	13th
1926-27	3 North	42	12	6	24	58	100	30	20th
1927-28	3 North	42	11	7	24	63	100	29	21st

First ever league game away! v. Southampton 27.8.1921 drew 1-1.
Final league fixture (home) v. Crewe Alex. 5.5.1928 won 5-1.



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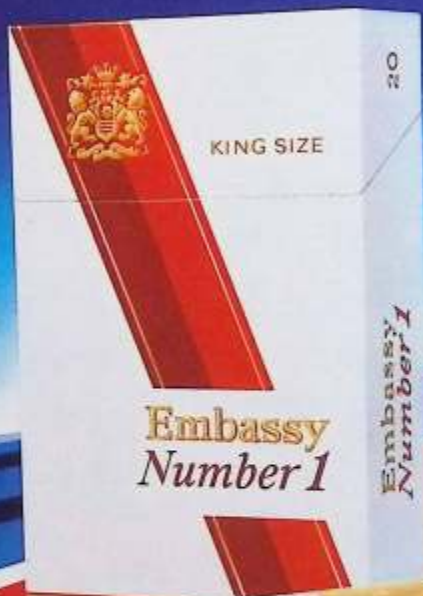
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EMCARY

Football Focus

It's disappointing to report that our recent bad run of results continued against Wimbledon, I felt we should have won, chances were created in the opening half hour that should have been converted into goals. Admittedly we didn't get much luck but then clubs that are struggling never do. However, in the second period with the scores level at 2-2 once again we had our chance but sadly in my opinion the team did not have the confidence or belief in themselves to win.

There's no doubt in my mind we're missing Gerry Keenan, I believe his experience and influence on the field would give us a much needed lift.

Generally though where do we go from here? It's vital of course that we pull clear of the re-election zone. To do that we're going to need at least one player to strengthen the team, a bit of luck and the desire and confidence to win. Also I believe we must step up our search for new talent. I'll admit it's not easy but Stoke for one proved recently that it can be done. They signed Peter Griffiths from non-league Bideford and already he has made a number of appearances in the First Division.

Buying established players is all very well but as proved recently either the price is too high or the player wants too much. We must find a happy medium quickly and establish ourselves in a safe position in the Fourth Division.

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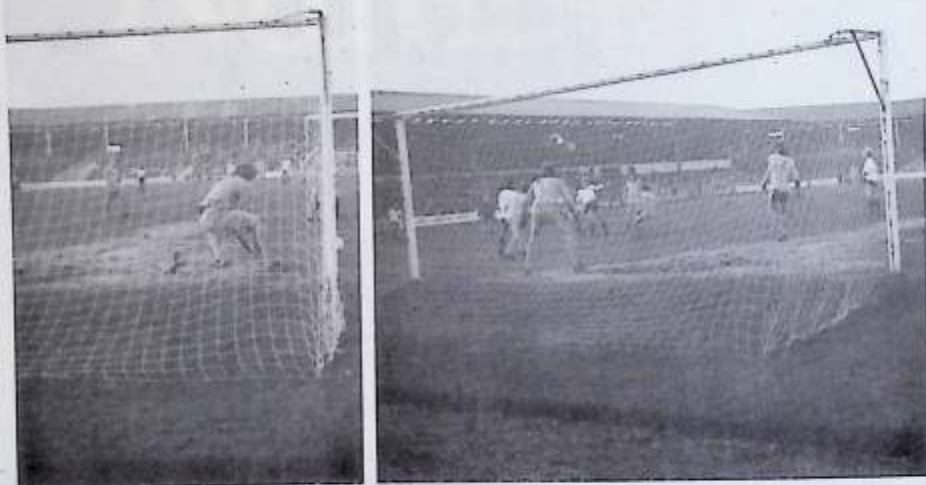
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v WIMBLEDON

1. Peter Farrell's shot is saved by Wimbledon 'keeper Bessant.
2. Steve James bursts through the Wimbledon defence.



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Assistant Manager John Rudge supervises the signings of Andy Higgins (left) and Terry Armstrong.
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On the Ball Quiz

ON THE BALL No. 18

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Their wear is not compulsory
Sunderland's Park
John Bond's boy
Former Leeds boss

ANSWERS — ON THE BALL No. 17
Italy; Clark; score; Stock.

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Full details of this trip may be obtained from the Promotions Office and as there are a limited number of seats available, I would advise anyone interested in joining this party to contact the Promotions Office as soon as possible.

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- 10 Mark Chamberlain
- 11 Paul Bennett
- 12 John Miller

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